

From: Matt Wills
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 3:21pm
Subject: Microsoft

This is not so much a comment on the settlement, but a comment on the continued abuses on the part of Microsoft, this one involving the US Postal Service.

The following letter was published in the readers' comments section of MacInTouch.com.

I think that for the US Postal Service to take part in actively promoting Microsoft products at this point is a disgrace.

>Date: Mon, 21 Jan 2002 23:12:35 -0600 From: Cliff Crouch Subject:
>United States of America "versus" Microsoft???
>
>Just when I think events can't get any weirder, they do: I go into a
>United States Post Office today, and encounter a poster touting, not
>the latest stamps, but Microsoft Windows XP -- *plus* a Windows XP
>promotional CD-ROM display.
>
>Yes, today is the "Martin Luther King birthday" holiday, officially
>observed throughout the United States, but this is the one post
>office in my hometown of Houston that stays open regardless (it's at
>Bush Intercontinental Airport).
>
>I take care of my business with the clerk at the counter and am
>headed back out when I observe, mounted in the window, a full-size
>poster (with the ubiquitous "flat-green-landscape-against-blue-sky"
>theme of MS's latest marketing barrage):
>
>Microsoft
>
>THE DIGITAL WORLD IS CALLING.
>
>Please take a free demo CD.
>
>Microsoft Windows XP
>
>I stand there mystified for a minute, and the clerk calls out, "Did
>you need something else, sir?"
>
>I motion to the poster and say, "What's this all about?" By way of
>response, she bustles over to a corner of her workplace and fetches
>a promotional CD-ROM in a pasteboard slipcase: "Microsoft Windows XP
>-- eXPerience the excitement!"
>

>"Here ya go!" she says as she hands it to me over the counter.
>
>"So, uh ... did Microsoft buy the Post Office recently?" I ask.
>
>"Oh, I think you can get these from UPS or FedEx, too," she says
>blithely, by way of "explanation," and goes back to work.
>
>On my way to the door, I now notice a similarly themed Windows XP
>"dump" -- that is, a cardboard display with a niche for holding
>two-dozen or so promotional CDs -- sitting atop one of the tables in
>the customer area.
>
>Neither the poster nor the cardboard dump even pretends to have any
>tie-in to the U.S. Post Office; it's just plain, unvarnished Windows
>XP puffery ... the kind of material that Microsoft pays to run in
>print media and on TV.
>
>Has anyone else come across anything else like this? And am I simply
>naive, or is there something profoundly disturbing about such
>shenanigans going on even as District Court Judge Colleen
>Kollar-Kotelly allegedly mulls the proper punishment of the
>Microsoft Corporation, an illegal monopoly, for violating U.S.
>antitrust law?
>
>Bemused, befuddled, & bewildered, Cliff Crouch